

PROTEST SAT 14 JULY, LONDON
NO TO NAZI DEMO

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CAGE TRUMP NOT KIDS



MARCH IN LONDON, FRIDAY 13 JULY

ASSEMBLE 2PM, BBC, PORTLAND PLACE, W1A 1AA
RALLY 5PM TRAFALGAR SQUARE. FULL DETAILS >>PAGES 10&11

HEALTH SERVICE

**Theresa May's
NHS cash scam
creates chaos**

THERESA MAY'S pledge to boost NHS funding through a £20 billion "Brexit dividend" backfired spectacularly on Monday.

The prime minister had hoped her announcement would pacify Tory rebels as they debated the EU Withdrawal Bill. Instead, the pledge "sparked a mutiny".

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GRENELL FIRE



**'We will keep
fighting for
Grenfell justice'**

ONE YEAR on from the Grenfell Tower fire, the battle for justice rages on.

The anniversary last Thursday saw 24 hours of events to commemorate those who died.

Over 10,000 people marched in silence along the route of the monthly Silent Walk.

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SCOTLAND

**Walkout by SNP
reflects appetite
for independence**

BY WALKING out of Westminster during the Brexit debates last week the group of Scottish National Party MPs put independence back on the agenda.

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THE THINGS THEY SAY

'Object'

Tory MP Sir Christopher Chope blocked the progress of a bill that would outlaw taking photos up women's skirts without their consent

'The suggestion that I am some kind of pervert is a complete travesty of the truth'

Sir Christopher Chope clarifies

'A dinosaur, pure and simple'

Even Tory MP Alec Shelbrooke isn't convinced by Chope

'Austerity is here until doomsday'

Former prime minister Gordon Brown's prediction for Scotland

'Everybody can now feel much safer than the day I took office'

Donald Trump offers reassurance

'Blair flung open the door to 4 million foreign migrants and Angela Merkel raised the stakes with a million more'

Trevor Kavanagh of the Sun newspaper explains why Theresa May is in trouble over Brexit



Football bosses feast on huge profits from another World Cup

THE FIFA World Cup of advertising kicked off last week.

Fifa, football's organisation around the world, rakes in billions of dollars in revenue every four years.

Construction and preparation for the tournament cost an estimated £9 billion, mostly to be paid by Russia, with more than 70 percent coming from public funding.

Fifa is designated legally as a non-profit association, even though it brings in profits upwards of hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

Investigations in 2015 saw allegations of corruption and bribery against the highest-ranking officials.

The US Department of Justice in 2015 indicted 41 officials, government leaders and corporate executives with charges of



Robbie Williams' message for fans from Fifa at the opening ceremony

racketeering, wire fraud and money laundering. It said they were involved "in a 24-year scheme to enrich themselves through the corruption of international soccer."

Part of the allegations against Fifa include awarding Russia with the 2018 World Cup and Qatar with the 2022 competition.

The association completed

an internal investigation in 2014, which it did not release.

The 2018 World Cup is expected to rake in about £5 billion in revenue for Fifa, up 25 percent from 2014.

The broadcast revenue alone is expected to rise to £2.5 billion.

Fifa requires bids to host the World Cup to include massive tax exemptions for the association.

The agreements establish tax-free zones for the World Cup venues, with Fifa's corporate partners being exempt from both income and sales taxes.

At the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, the most expensive stadium built exclusively for the Cup, the Mane Garrincha, cost around £500 million.

Today it is used as a parking lot for buses.

● PHILLIP LEE'S Tory colleagues think he harbours ambitions to be prime minister because he hosts intimate dinners for MPs hoping for their support.

But no one else had heard of the justice minister until he quit last week over Brexit.

He said he wanted to be able to look his children in the eye in years to come. He then abstained in a vote.



Phillip Lee

● AS RUSSIA played its first World Cup game, news broke of an increase in the national retirement age by five years, to 65 for men and 63 for women. Prime minister Dmitry Medvedev also announced a 2 percent raise in VAT.

Tory delay means bookies win billions

GAMBLING FIRMS will rake in around £7 billion from fixed odds betting terminals (FOBT) thanks to the Tories dithering over setting a £2 stake cap—then delaying its launch.

The Treasury has now agreed to postpone the implementation of the new rules until 2020.

A deal has been struck under pressure from the industry.

Shops will rake in £4 billion from units during the delay and, since the inquiry into FOBTs launched in June 2016, £3 billion was lost on them.

At the moment, people can gamble £100 every 20 seconds.



● THE COST of being posh is going up by more than twice the rate of inflation.

Those who take exotic holidays, buy suits from Savile Row and pay school fees face a 5.5 percent annual rise, according to posh people's bank Coutts.

Coutts' Sven Balzer said, "Inflation in luxury goods is still much higher than the average return on cash and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future."

No planes and no ships to impress Trump

PLANS TO wow Donald Trump with Britain's military kit when he visits next month have been torn up.

Downing Street wanted to show the US president HMS Queen Elizabeth, the Royal Navy's new aircraft carrier.

But the plan has been torpedoed because it has no aircraft.

Officials feared the sight of Trump's helicopter landing on an empty flight deck would provoke ridicule.

Donald Trump

● SIX £1 billion warships described as the backbone of the Royal Navy spent 80 percent of last year in dock.

The Type 45 destroyers need a multi-million pound refit after repeatedly breaking down since being introduced in 2008.

Two of the ships, HMS Dauntless and HMS Defender, did not even go to sea for a year. All six of the ships have an engine that cuts out in warm seas.

Stickers are unstuck by Panini scam

WHAT HAPPENS when you buy 1,000 packets of World Cup stickers?

The number of World Cup competing nations this year—32—is the same as in South Africa four years ago. But Panini has conjured up an extra 41 stickers. Panini is very good at making money—over £650 million a year.

In an effort to discover just how much money it would cost to complete a set, 5,000 stickers were bought to see how many it would take to



finish the book.

With individual packets priced at 80p in newsagents and supermarkets, a total of 1,000 packets were bought for £800.

A total of 682 stickers are required to complete the album. From the 1,000 packs 681 were found leaving a total of 4,319 "swaps".

Belgium's Radja Nainggolan failed to make his national side's squad. His card didn't emerge.

May backer fraud charge

A TORY donor has been charged with fraud after his firm, which advised people how to legally avoid paying tax, collapsed owing £13 million.

Freddy David, boss of HBFS Financial Services Limited, is also accused of deception. Hannah, his wife and co-owner of HBFS, failed to become a Tory MP last June but is head of the Conservative Policy Forum.

David gave £2,000 to the Tories while HBFS donated £15,685.



Freddy David

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Labour and union leaders say, 'Protest at the Nazis'

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

LABOUR SHADOW ministers Diane Abbott and John McDonnell are calling on people to take to the streets against supporters of jailed Nazi Tommy Robinson.

They are among dozens of signatories to an open letter initiated by Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) from across the labour movement and Muslim organisations.

Thousands of fascists and racists plan to descend on Whitehall, central London, on Saturday 14 July.

It will follow a 15,000-strong rally in the same location on 9 June—the biggest outdoor mobilisation organised by fascists in Britain.

Talha Ahmad from the Muslim Council of Britain said their last mobilisation was “an alarming reminder”.

“We must not be complacent in facing off the challenge posed by the far right and fascists,” he said.

“We must tackle head on this alarming show of force by fascists.”

The forces of the British far right are trying to regroup. Nazis such as Robinson see an opportunity to rebuild a mass movement on the streets.

During the 9 June demonstration, protesters did the “Sieg heil” salute and hurled racist insults at non-white tourists.

Populists

And, perhaps most dangerously, the fascists and racist populists of Ukip are being brought together for the first time.

At the Free Tommy rally Ukip leader Gerrard Batten told the baying mob that they had a choice to “submit or resist” to Islamisation. And he called on people to “join, support and vote” for Ukip.

He hopes to rebuild Ukip after their wipeout in local elections last month.



TOMMY ROBINSON supporters protesting on 9 June

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN



Shadow chancellor John McDonnell has backed protests against the far right

The bridge between the two is the Democratic Football Lads Alliance. It was a much bigger breakaway from the “original” FLA, and the two have now reunited.

Groups such as Generation Identity, made up of young admirers

of the US alt right, are a new and growing element on the protests.

Donald Trump’s upcoming visit to Britain could boost every Nazi and racist in the country.

That’s why the SUTR statement also said, “We will take to the streets to protest against his racism.”

Other signatories calling for people to protest on 13 and 14 July include Stop the War Coalition convenor Lindsey German and Labour MPs David Lammy and Laura Pidcock.

The leaders of all the major trade unions have also backed the call.

Len McCluskey, Unite union general secretary, said, “There is a growing and worryingly unified and violent far right marching on our streets.”

“I call on all trade union members to join the protest against them—let’s not let the peddlers of prejudice win.”

Activists must take this broad-based support into every workplace and campus and use it to get colleagues and classmates out on the day.

Pushing back the Nazis means taking on the racism that feeds them—and mobilising on the streets whenever we can to break their confidence.

Unity protest against the Nazis and Tommy Robinson Go to www.facebook.com/events/169517280565963/
From Windrush to the far right: resisting the “hostile environment” SUTR meeting with Diane Abbott and others. Go to www.facebook.com/events/1712902475424164/

IN BRIEF

Children dirty due to poverty

CHILDREN ARE left dirty because of poverty, according to a survey.

Some 43 percent of parents told the In Kind Direct charity that they can’t afford basic hygiene or cleaning products.

Over half of primary school teachers surveyed give children washing powder, soap and shampoo weekly.

Sales of public buildings soar

COUNCILS IN England are selling off more than 4,000 public buildings and spaces every year, according to charity Locality.

The selloffs include parks, libraries, town halls and swimming pools. They are often sold to developers to build luxury flats.

Thousands of homes empty

THE NUMBER of vacant homes stands at 605,000—in the middle of a housing crisis.

Some 205,000 were vacant for six months or longer, according to the House of Commons Library’s latest figures.

Report slams deaths in jail

TWENTY MEN have killed themselves in HMP Woodhill jail in Milton Keynes since 2011—more than any other prison in England and Wales.

HM Inspectorate of Prisons said there were “chronic and substantial” staff shortages and that the prison is “still not safe enough”.

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IN THIS WEEK

1965

Students protest after Algiers coup

HUNDREDS OF people took to the streets of the Algerian capital on 20 June 1965 in support of deposed president Ahmed Ben Bella.

Ben Bella had led the struggle against French colonialism.



‘We’ll keep fighting for justice for Grenfell’

Anger lay under the sorrow as people marked one year since the disaster, reports Alistair Farrow

ONE YEAR ON from the Grenfell Tower fire, the battle for justice rages on.

The anniversary on Thursday of last week saw 24 hours of events to commemorate those who died. Organisers said over 10,000 people marched in silence along the route of the monthly Silent Walk, beginning at the Maxilla Social Club.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and North Kensington Labour MP Emma Dent-Coad joined the protest.

And last Saturday some 2,000 people marched from Downing Street to the Home Office to demand justice for those who died in the fire.

Under all the sorrow lies a deep anger—and it’s easy to see why.

Theresa May last Wednesday said, “We are doing everything that we can to see that the survivors get the homes and support that they need and the truth and justice that they deserve.”

That is not true. The Tories could rehouse everyone tomorrow if they wanted. Instead they drag their feet.

And the consequences of their inaction stretch far beyond people’s immediate housing needs.

The manager of the Grenfell health and wellbeing adults’ service, Ross O’Brien, said delays in rehousing people have added to the “crisis period” people still live in.

Streets

“We need to continue to get out in the streets,” marcher Hiyam told Socialist Worker on Saturday.

The anger is not just restricted to the immediate area. There were over ten solidarity events in towns and cities across Britain last Thursday alone, and more over the weekend.

Those responsible for the fire are trying to escape scrutiny by blaming others. The latest targets have been firefighters, who were out in force on last Saturday’s demonstration.

Grenfell Action Group member Joe Delaney told the crowd on Saturday, “Individual firefighters

BACK STORY

The anniversary of the Grenfell fire took place last Thursday

●Thousands of people took part in events to commemorate those who died and to demand justice

●At least 72 people died in the fire, which broke out on 14 June last year in Kensington

●The authorities’ cutbacks and failures to heed safety warnings lay behind the disaster

●Those responsible are trying to blame others—and they can’t be allowed to get away with it

did not close North Kensington Fire Station. They did not push through the cuts.”

One firefighter on the demo argued, “The blame lies overwhelmingly with the people responsible for the refurbishment.”

FBU union general secretary Matt Wrack said next time every union should be there and that protests should “bring the city to a halt”.

Moyra Samuels is from Justice4Grenfell, which organised the demonstration with the FBU. She said the fire was the result of an “unequal society” and vowed to keep fighting.

Others pointed to how the downgrading of council housing made Grenfell inevitable.

“Thirty years of cuts and privatisation turned our homes into death traps,” said Eileen Short from the Defend Council Housing campaign. “It was because of political decisions.”

Hiyam pointed to the greed of the people behind the refurbishment of the tower, which saw a cheaper form of cladding used.

And protester Isabell added, “The more noise we make, the more likely we are to get action.”



On other pages...

How can we beat fascism?
>>Pages 14&15



PROTESTERS DEMAND justice for Grenfell in London last Saturday

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

John McDonnell pledges council housing, but the party is divided

THE LABOUR Party can’t agree on housing policy just as the Grenfell Tower fire has highlighted the urgent need to address the crisis.

One key divide is over council housing.

Labour has said it will build one million homes over ten years if it wins the next election—and the one after. Half will be built by private firms.

The debate in the party focuses on what the other 500,000 will consist of—council or social housing.

Social housing includes housing associations, which are increasingly behaving like private companies.

At the party’s 2016 conference Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said half of the million new homes would be council homes.

Theresa Pearce, then shadow housing minister, swiftly got up and said the 500,000 would be social housing.

That line has stuck since. Current shadow housing minister John Healey has enforced it.

But, speaking to Socialist Worker last Saturday, shadow chancellor John McDonnell said he favoured council building.

“We’re demanding council housing,” he said. “We’re now talking to local government leaders



On the silent walk for Grenfell in Bradford last week

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

to ensure that there is the capacity they need to ensure it is council housing and that it’s built by direct labour wherever possible.”

Healey said last year that to solve the housing crisis he would ring house building firms first, housing associations second, and councils only third.

When Socialist Worker pointed this out to McDonnell, he reiterated his position.

“Our priority will be council houses built by councils themselves,” he said. “The issue is building up the capacity of those councils to do it.

“We’ve had eight years of councils being battered. It’s not just direct labour units going—it’s

planning officers and planning departments being depleted as well.”

McDonnell’s comments are welcome, despite the qualifications.

In the immediate aftermath of Grenfell Corbyn called for the requisitioning of the empty homes of the rich in Kensington and Chelsea.

Healey’s line over Grenfell is that the Tories must do more and Labour would be better—true, but hardly inspirational.

Corbyn did well at last year’s election because of the hope he inspired in ordinary people. The Labour leadership must show that hope was not misplaced.

Rashan Charles struggled to breathe after being restrained

AN INQUEST into the death of Rashan Charles last week heard from witnesses to his restraint by a police officer.

A group of officers from the Territorial Support Group (TSG) were patrolling Hackney, east London, on the day Rashan died. These included officer BX47, who restrained Rashan, and officer BX48, who later gave Rashan first aid.

Local taxi driver Abdullah Ozpapas went into the shop while Rashan was restrained. He said BX47 “looked panicked”.

Another witness, James Walsh, said he had thought Rashan was choking.

Struggling

Witness Callum McCrae said “Rashan was struggling to breathe.

“He went quite still. I could tell something was not quite right.”

BX47 called more officers to the scene before calling an ambulance.

Police safety trainer Ian Reid told the court that an ambulance should



Flowers left outside the shop where Rashan Charles was restrained

PICTURE: DAVE GILCHRIST

have been called if there was a suspicion that someone had swallowed drugs.

He also said he would have removed Rashan’s handcuffs once he realised it was a medical emergency.

BX48 removed the handcuffs when she entered the shop and attempted CPR on Rashan.

The inquest also heard that Rashan had been arrested on suspicion of dealing class A drugs a month before his death.

Some packages seized from his grandmother’s house were the same as the package of

paracetamol and coffee found in his airway after his death.

Others contained cocaine.

The court also heard that Rashan had a number of previous convictions for possession of cannabis and other drugs offences.

BX47 previously told the inquest that Rashan Charles was not on a list of wanted individuals that the TSG had been briefed about.

The coroner was expected to sum up the case on Tuesday, as Socialist Worker went to press.

Sadie Robinson

Racists routed in Lewisham

FAR right Islamophobe Anne Marie Waters and her supporters were humiliated in Lewisham, south east London, on Tuesday of last week.

Locals and anti-racists blockaded a hustings where she had been invited to speak. Waters stood for the far right For Britain party in a by-election in the borough last Thursday.

She got just 266 votes, or 1.2 percent. Labour won the seat.

Grim

A grim collection of ex-Ukipers, former British National Party thugs and alt-right supporters came to see her reactionary rant. They had a rough night finding themselves completely outnumbered by a

very hostile crowd from the word go. Around 100 joined the anti-racist protest.

Waters is one of the best known figures that has emerged from the far right over the last year. The event was clearly a magnet for racists feeling emboldened by recent events.

The police were slow to arrive.

Members of the Nazi Generation Identity and other alt-right “media” found their cameras and live streams blocked by assertive stewards whenever they tried to film the protest.

Many potential attendees for Water’s hate speech didn’t even try to get through the crowd. Some did and gave up. An increasing number of cops

assisted others who ended up milling around in a half empty hall. They were eventually told the event was ending early and Waters would not be attending on police advice.

Representatives of local trade unions addressed the protest including speakers from the CWU, NUT and Bfawu unions.

The numbers were considerably swelled by local branches. Lewisham has a special place in history as a turning point in the struggle against fascism in 1977. That feeling still runs deep 41 years later.

Guy Smallman

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

US HORROR SHOWS NEED TO TEAR DOWN BORDERS

HORRIFYING images and footage have shown the true face of the US border regime.

Some 2,000 children have been ripped from their parents at the Mexican border in the last six weeks as a result of White House decisions.

They have been kept in cages in immigration detention centres. A recording obtained by the ProPublica news website shows a child pleading, “I don’t want them to stop my father, I don’t want them to deport him.”

The latest crackdown comes from a “zero tolerance” attitude toward already-existing immigration law, which border guards previously applied selectively.

“We are enforcing the laws as they exist on the books,” said Trump’s secretary of Homeland Security, Kirstjen Nielsen.

“The border is being overrun by those who have no right to cross it.”

The change came in April when Trump’s attorney general Jeff Sessions said, “If you cross the border unlawfully, even a first offence, we’re going to prosecute you.”

And, far from being shamed

over the scandal, Trump’s White House is looking to step the horror up a gear.

Immigration officials told the Washington Examiner newspaper they are expanding capacity to detain 30,000 children by August—adding an extra 250 children a day.

What has been almost as sickening is the hypocritical response of some “moderate” Republicans, Democrats—and the rest of the international ruling class.

They are responsible for similar crimes to Trump, but conveniently gloss them over.

Former Republican first lady Laura Bush described the scandal



Democrats and ‘moderate’ Republicans are responsible for similar crimes

as “immoral”. She didn’t have much to say when Bush administration wars led to the death of a million Iraqis.

Michelle Obama joined in, again demonstrating selective amnesia. More people—2.5 million—were deported from the US during Barack Obama’s Democratic administration than under any other president.

Many of the camps where children are currently held were built during Obama’s presidency.

In another shameful chapter of their pathetic resistance to Trump, Democrats have introduced the Keeping Families Together Act.

If passed it would mean people could still be detained and deported, just that families would not be separated.

Meanwhile, in Britain many of Trump’s critics raise no objection to the regime of detention in migrant prisons such as Yarl’s Wood.

Such people pick and choose which parts of the system they object to, and tinker around its edges in an attempt to fix it.

But any system which criminalises people based on where they come from is beyond reform.

Borders tear people apart. They should be torn down.

TORY SPLITS OVER SPLIFFS

FORMER Conservative leader William Hague is the latest high profile Tory to call for cannabis law reform.

The Tories are split on the issue following the case of a 12 year old whose medicinal cannabis oil was confiscated at Heathrow Airport.

The Home Office returned some of the medicine to Billy Caldwell after medics confirmed he needed it to deal with severe epileptic seizures.

Hague called for a “decisive change” in the law. Health

secretary Jeremy Hunt said the law wasn’t working properly. Yet Theresa May has played down the prospect of change.

Labour is divided too. Jeremy Corbyn said he backs legalisation of cannabis oil for medicinal purposes. But the party said last year that it remains opposed to wider legalisation.

Now Labour says it may have a review.

Cannabis is a Class B drug—after being reclassified by Labour from Class C in 2009. That means

possession can lead to five years in jail. Police in England and Wales recorded over 83,000 offences for cannabis possession in 2016-17.

Yet it’s generally safer than legal drugs such as tobacco and alcohol. And many people use it to alleviate chronic pain and anxiety.

Socialist Worker believes that cannabis should be legalised for recreational and medicinal purposes. The “war on drugs” has failed and is a mechanism for hounding and harassing working class, poor and black people.

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ANALYSIS

CHARLIE KIMBER



Tory rebels push May toward a Brexit crisis

THERESA MAY was due to face a crucial test over Brexit in parliament this week, and possibly to suffer a damaging defeat.

But given that May is such a virtuoso in delay and avoidance, it was hard to be sure what would take place.

Socialist Worker went to press before the vote was taken and it's perfectly possible that by the time you read this May has survived to lurch on with a bit more damage. Or perhaps a juddering split will have forced the Tories into an even deeper crisis.

Or if Julian Smith, the Tory chief whip, decides he can't be sure of winning the matter could even be postponed again.

This is the fevered and unpredictable state of British politics. May is skilled at surviving for a few days at a time, but only at the cost of storing up even greater problems for the future.

At stake for the moment is whether MPs will have a "meaningful vote" on the final Brexit deal, rather than the take it or leave it vote that May had previously offered.

In other words, if next year the Tories' final deal on Brexit is rejected then the cabinet would have to come up with a better one rather than leaving the European Union (EU) without any deal at all.

This would take control from the government and could make the entire process even less predictable.

Facing defeat on the issue last week, May made a last-minute retreat.

Former attorney general Dominic Grieve heads up the Tories backing the "meaningful vote". May solemnly pledged to back a new amendment that largely reflected his wishes.

Grieve was stupid enough to believe her.

Threatened

Hearing that May might be about to give in to Grieve, Brexit secretary David Davis threatened to resign—again.

So May ratted on her promise to Grieve and offered only a meaningless compromise. That meant she avoided the problem—for a whole week.

On Monday the House of Lords, seeing what had happened to Grieve, voted for a new "meaningful vote" amendment by 354 votes to 235. The majority of 119 was even larger than the last time it was debated.

So the issue was due to come back to the Commons again this week, with the expectation there would be a vote on Wednesday which May might lose.

Behind all the manoeuvres lies the reality that May no longer expects to achieve a Brexit deal that will be good enough to guarantee a majority in parliament.

The European Union's relentless pressure has narrowed the Tories' options, and developments in the EU have also put pressure on EU leaders.

In Austria, Italy, Hungary and Poland there are now right wing governments that are critical of the EU. If it were easy or painless to leave then one or more might break from the euro monetary system or even the EU itself.

So, just as Greece in 2016 was brutally punished in order to send a message to other countries that might want to break from austerity, so Britain is being squeezed over Brexit now.

Labour also has its problems. Last week 75 backbenchers defied party instructions to abstain and voted for Britain to seek membership of the European Economic Area (EEA) after Brexit. A further 15 voted against.

The EEA enforces on its members the disciplines of the bosses' single market on countries outside the EU.

Six Labour MPs resigned from junior positions in the government so they could take a position rather than abstain.

It was the biggest Labour revolt so far over Brexit issues.

Whatever happens this week, it's clearer than ever that the left needs to define its own position. It cannot be to line up with the EU by blocking Brexit.

Instead it has to be a fight for a Brexit that is in the interests of the working class.

We need to unite against austerity, defend and extend freedom of movement and fight for socialist internationalism.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL Party MPs pose for selfies after walking out from the House of Commons last week

SNP walkout reflects mood for Scottish independence

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

BY WALKING out of parliament during the Brexit debates at Westminster last week Scottish National Party (SNP) MPs forced themselves to the top of news bulletins in Scotland.

And they brought renewed focus on the question of independence.

Since the Scottish parliament was created in 1999, there has been a convention that the British parliament does not normally legislate on devolved matters or change the devolution settlement without the Scottish parliament's consent.

Brexit has exploded that understanding.

When Brexit happens, a number of powers over areas such as the NHS, fracking, agriculture and fishing will return to Britain. Theresa May intends to keep them, at least temporarily, at Westminster rather than devolving them to Scotland.

Just 15 minutes was given to Scottish issues during last week's debates, so Ian Blackford, the SNP's Westminster leader, protested and was ordered to leave. His colleagues followed him.

The stunt was popular. Impromptu "hands off our parliament" protests drew hundreds in Edinburgh and Glasgow. The SNP claimed 5,000 new members within

24 hours of its MPs' walkout. Other figures were also moved to shift position towards independence.

Murray Foote was editor of the Daily Record newspaper when it ran its famous "vow" front page. It had political leaders promising more powers for Scotland if people voted No



in the 2014 independence referendum.

He labelled what happened last week a "democratic abomination" and declared "so independence it must be".

Many see this as an all-out assault by the Tories on devolution.

Never before has Westminster overruled elected MSPs and legislated over powers held by Holyrood without its consent.

Every party—bar the Tories—rejected the "power grab" when the implications of the EU Withdrawal Bill for devolution were debated and voted on at Holyrood.

Whether last week proves to be a turning point for the independence movement remains to be seen. But the promise of Holyrood becoming the "most powerful devolved parliament in the world", if Scots rejected independence, lies in tatters.

Rejected

Labour's abstention from the Westminster vote after it had rejected the "power grab" at Holyrood has left many scratching their heads.

This will only cut it off from those who see independence as an escape route from Westminster austerity.

The SNP leadership is under increasing pressure to call for a second independence referendum. Thousands are set to join the latest in a series of marches for independence this Saturday in Bannockburn.

The pressure is only going to grow on Nicola Sturgeon. But it's crucial that independence is linked to a radical anti-austerity and anti-racist programme, not the bosses' charter that the recent SNP growth commission report represented.

March for independence—
Saturday 23 June, 1pm,
King's Park, Stirling

No inquiries for deaths

KATIE ALLAN died earlier this month at Polmont Prison near Falkirk.

The student, who was 20 when convicted, was jailed for 16 months in February for a drunk driving hit and run.

She was due to be released in October.

A spokeswoman for the Scottish Prison Service said, "We can confirm Katie Allan passed away."

There is a legal obligation to hold a Fatal Accident Inquiry (FAI) in cases of deaths in custody, but

there is no obligation to hold it within a reasonable timescale.

There has been no FAI into any of the 24 prison deaths last year.

There has been no FAI into 18 prison deaths in 2016.

There has been no FAI into six prison deaths in 2015.

And, intolerably, there has been no FAI into six prison deaths for 2014.

The total number of deaths in custody in Scotland, 2014-17, in which the cause of death is still to be declared is 54.



On other pages...

Don't let the Leave vote be written off as backward >>>Page 15

EU and Britain’s crackdown on refugees means more will die

The case of the rescue ship Aquarius has reignited debates over the refugee crisis, and shines a light on the racism at the heart of the European Union, argues **Tomáš Tengely-Evans**

THE EUROPEAN Union’s (EU) rulers are planning a fresh clampdown on refugees fleeing wars and poverty.

The Italian government said it will refuse to let in more refugees after it blocked charity-run rescue ship Aquarius from docking last week.

Interior minister Matteo Salvini tweeted, “While the Aquarius ship goes toward Spain, 2 other NGO ships with Dutch flags have arrived near the Libyan coast.

“We know that Italy does not want to be complicit in the business of clandestine immigration and they will have to look for other ports to go to.”

The leader of the racist League party has previously threatened to expel half a million migrants.

The 629 refugees on the Aquarius finally arrived in Spain on Sunday after more than a week in the Mediterranean Sea.

They included at least 123 unaccompanied minors, 11 children and seven pregnant women.

Hundreds more migrants are likely to suffer a similar experience.

Aquarius docked in the port of Valencia in south eastern Spain. Monica Oltra, left wing vice president of the Valencia regional government, said, “The Mediterranean Sea must not become a mass grave.”

But the EU’s Fortress Europe policies have already turned it into just that.

And French president Emmanuel Macron has now agreed to make it even harder for refugees to make it into Europe.

He had initially offered some mild criticism of the Italian government’s handling of the Aquarius crisis. And the French government said some of the 629 refugees could settle in France.

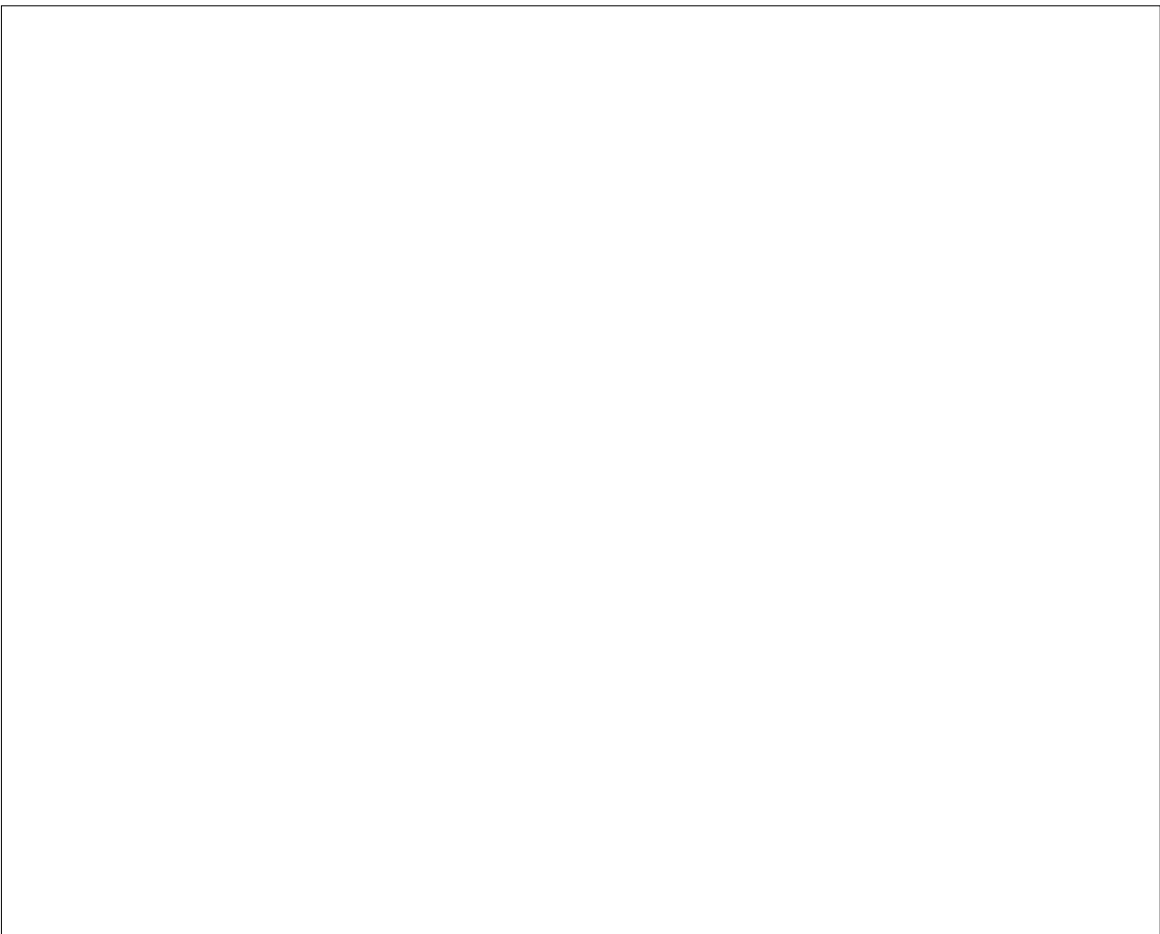
Asylum

But Macron then met with the Italian prime minister and agreed to push for EU migrant prisons in North African countries, such as Libya. He said that refugees with “no possibility of obtaining asylum in Europe” should be processed in their “home countries”.

If they successfully push through this plan, it could mark the beginning of another crackdown—and more deaths.

The refugees trying to cross the Mediterranean are fleeing imperialist wars and poverty. Those who make it across alive are then met by barbed wire, tear gas and appalling living conditions.

Over 1,000 are trapped at



THE RESCUE ship Aquarius is at the centre of an international row over the treatment of refugees

Britain’s border in Calais by Theresa May and Macron.

And those few that get through to Britain people can expect to be forgotten and left in awful conditions.

At least three young refugees who came to Britain from “The Jungle” refugee camp in Calais are thought to have killed themselves in the last six months. And a fourth person also killed himself last year.

People who knew some of the young men who died have described the trauma they experienced in fleeing Eritrea, where they all came from, and getting to Britain.

On top of this, they found navigating the British asylum application process extremely stressful.

The only solution to the refugee crisis is to open the borders—and let people come here safely.

And that means building a mass movement against racism that can force the racist Tory government and EU rulers to do that.

Solidarity delegation to Calais organised by Stand Up To Racism and Care for Calais Go to Facebook event
Refugee week: solidarity visit to Calais for details

German coalition rocked

RACISM against refugees pushed from the top has fuelled the rise of racists and fascists.

German chancellor Angela Merkel narrowly avoided the collapse of her Christian Democrat/Social Democrat coalition on Monday.

Merkel’s CDU rules alongside the CSU, its more right wing sister party in the state of Bavaria.

Interior minister Horst Seehofer had threatened to withdraw from this historic alliance unless Merkel sealed the border to refugees. He’s now given Merkel a two-

week ultimatum to come up with an EU-wide solution.
Seehofer is hoping to outflank the AfD party—half of whose MPs are fascists—in the upcoming regional elections. He pulled out of a summit last week to meet with Austrian Tory chancellor Sebastian Kurz,

who’s in coalition with the fascist Freedom Party.
Kurz called for an “axis of the willing” of Germany, Austria and Italy to secure Europe’s borders.
Merkel and the EU are not opposed to this. She has called for more security at the EU’s external borders to stop refugees.

Horst Seehofer and Angela Merkel

UNITED STATES

Fury over detentions

DONALD TRUMP tried to dodge anger at the forced separation of undocumented migrant parents and children at the Mexican border last week.

Hundreds of children are imprisoned in metal cages inside an old warehouse in southern Texas. Trump’s “zero tolerance” policy towards undocumented migrants means adults who are caught are sent to jail (see pages 10&11).

“The Democrats forced that law upon our nation,” Trump told a White House press conference. “I hate it.

“I hate to see separation of parents and children.”

In reality, Trump is using the border crisis to push for a much more deadly immigration clampdown. “The Democrats can change the whole border security,” he continued at the conference. “We need a wall. “We need border security.”

The Democrats and some “moderate” Republicans have hypocritically attacked Trump’s separation policy.

Enforce

Former Republican first lady Laura Bush jumped in to criticise Trump as “immoral” and “cruel”.

She then added, “I live in a border state, I appreciate the need to enforce and protect our international boundaries.”

While Trump has ramped up attacks on migrants, he is building on previous administrations’ racist immigration policies.

Trump’s racism is another reason to join the Together Against Trump demonstration on 13 July when he visits Britain.

Laura Bush wants to hold migrants at the border, despite her crocodile tears



Saudis use Brit bombs to brutalise Yemen port

People in Yemen face war, starvation and disease—and Britain must share the blame, says **Charlie Kimber**

A MASSIVE offensive was launched last week by Saudi Arabian and United Arab Emirates-led forces against Yemen's Red Sea port of Hodeidah. They used weapons supplied by Britain and the US.

Already over 300 civilians have been killed, and the lives of tens of thousands more are under threat.

In addition aid workers have warned the assault on the port could shut down the entry route for 70 percent of Yemen's food and humanitarian aid.

Two thirds of Yemen's population of 27 million relies on aid and 8.4 million are already at risk of starving.

In a series of tweets, the International Committee of the Red Cross said the people in Hodeidah were "bracing for the worst," and tens of thousands were expected to flee in the coming days.

"People live in slums in the outskirts surviving on breadcrumbs they find in the garbage," said the group. "With the little money they do have, they buy cooking oil in plastic bags just enough to cook one meal a day."

Saudi Arabian forces have been fighting in Yemen for more than three years to restore a regime that protects its interests and those of the US and its allies.

Fighting has seen 13,000 killed, the large majority civilians murdered in Saudi Arabian air strikes.

Devastated

The war has devastated the country's already fragile infrastructure, including the health sector. There is now a cholera epidemic.

The charity Save the Children estimates that 50,000 children died in 2017 of extreme hunger or disease.

The latest Saudi assault has been encouraged by intensified US pressure on Iran. Iran backs the group known as Houthis who presently hold Hodeidah.

Officially the British government has approved standard arms

BACK STORY

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have been devastating Yemen for the last three years

● Britain has sold £4 billion of bombs and airplanes to Saudi Arabia since the war started

● British officers have been present in Saudi command centres

● Britain has blocked moves in the United Nations to begin a ceasefire process

● More than 300 civilians have already been killed so far

licences worth more than £4 billion to Saudi Arabia since the start of the war in Yemen, including advanced jets and munitions.

Increase

But the online news organisation Middle East Eye showed in March that the government has also agreed a 75 percent increase in secretive "open licences" to approve additional arms sales, including vital parts for the jets blasting Yemen.

British and US officers have been in the command room for the airstrikes, and last weekend the French newspaper Le Figaro alleged that there are French special forces on the ground in Yemen.

Houthi forces have also claimed they have captured a French military boat.

On Friday of last week Britain and the US blocked a Swedish push for a United Nations (UN) security council statement demanding a ceasefire.

Stop Arming Saudi—Stop Bombing Yemen. Demonstrate Friday 22 June, 5pm, Downing Street. Called by Stop the War Coalition



On other pages...

Ten crimes of Donald Trump
>>>Pages 10&11

DEVASTATION IN Yemen

Air France workers join the strike wave

AIR FRANCE workers were set to begin a strike this weekend in their latest round of action over pay.

It's part of a wave of revolt against President Emmanuel Macron and the bosses who support him.

Electricity and gas workers staged a major day of action last week with strikes at over 245 sites. At least 120 of them were blockaded.

Workers are demanding the nationalisation of the entire energy sector, an increase of £350 a month, a minimum wage of £1,575 a month and no job losses.

TURKEY

Erdogan under pressure as voters go to polls

THE TURKISH presidential and parliamentary elections set for this Sunday take place under severe restrictions on other political forces except for those of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

But even this may not be enough to secure the result he wants. Erdogan would be forced into a run-off if he secures less than 50 percent of the first round votes.

Whoever wins will inherit increased presidential powers that were approved in a referendum last year.

Coordinated strikes can beat Macron

Rail workers struck on Monday this week and were set to strike again on Friday. This would be their 32nd and 33rd day of strikes against

privatisation, line closures and attacks on workers' contracts.

Two union federations and several student unions have agreed to a day of action over a range of issues on 28 June.

But Macron is not backing off—indeed he is selecting new targets.

He released a video last week where he said of health and social care, "We spend too much money, we let people avoid their responsibilities, we are in curing mode."

Workers are showing real willingness to fight, but only escalation to a general strike will beat Macron.

These include the power to issue decrees with the force of law, appoint the cabinet and vice-presidents as well as senior judges.

The main opposition to Erdogan is a coalition led by the right wing social democrats of the CHP.

The leftist and pro-Kurdish People's Democratic Party (HDP) is hoping to reach

the 10 percent threshold to win MPs. At least five HDP supporters were killed and nine injured in attacks by thugs armed with heavy weapons campaigning for Erdogan on Sunday in the town of Suruc.

The HDP's candidate for president, Selahattin Demirtas, is campaigning from prison where he awaits trial on trumped-up terrorism charges.



President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

In defence of heckling

THE NORWICH Tory North MP, Chloe Smith tried to prosecute me for heckling her. I am pleased to say this completely backfired and was highlighted on many websites and media outlets. The case was then dropped.

I suffer from stress and anxiety and this fiasco had a detrimental effect on my health.

But I've received tremendous support from Disabled People Against the Cuts and many other people for which I am extremely grateful.

Mick Hardy
Norwich

South Korea credit is due

I WAS surprised that the editorial about the Korea "peace deal" (Socialist Worker, 13 July) made no mention of the role of the South Korean working class in creating the conditions for progress.

There are shortcomings of the Singapore summit, and Donald Trump has cynical motives.

But the deal could not have come about without the mass anti-corruption movement in 2016-17 which brought down right wing South Korean president Park Geun-hye.

The movement was dominated by the labour and trade union movement.

It led to a centre left government which has reversed the hawkish approach to North Korea. If anyone deserves credit for moves towards peace on the Korean peninsula, it is the South Korean working class.

Mark Brown
Glasgow



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Boycott shows there's no Pride in Israeli apartheid

THE STREETS of Tel Aviv were filled with rainbow flags alongside Israeli ones as thousands took to the streets for their 20th annual Pride march recently.

Israel has declared itself the "gay capital of the Middle East", in an attempt to appear a tolerant and open society.

"Brand Israel" is trying to promote the country as a LGBT+ tourist hotspot.

But Palestinian LGBT+ activists have adopted the slogan "no Pride in apartheid" and organised a boycott of the parade.

They said Israel is "pinkwashing", which means the government is adopting a LGBT+ friendly facade as a way of covering up its crimes against

Palestinians. Many on the Pride march didn't see any connection between the event and Israel's treatment of Palestinians.

Someone on the parade said, "We have dropped all politics for this parade, why can't they?"

But Palestinians aren't allowed to travel freely, and don't have the same rights as people in Israel.

And most Palestinians are denied visas to Israel—including LGBT+ people going to Pride.

So for Palestinian people, there is no option to drop the politics. But not everyone has bought into the Israeli government's "pinkwashing".

At the side of the march I met a group of protesters holding placards saying, "End the

occupation" in Hebrew, English and Arabic.

The move to boycott Pride in Israel is spearheaded by Arab LGBT+ activists, and is part of a BDS movement that aims to put international pressure on Israel to stop apartheid.

Last year about £29 million was made from the 3.5 million visitors to Pride. Removing this would be a significant blow to their economy.

The boycott is about solidarity with Palestinians and if Israel really cared about LGBT+ rights, it would recognise the struggle of LGBT+ Palestinians.

Let's be clear—there is no Pride in apartheid.

Oisín Challen Flynn
South London

We can win against the cruel benefit slashers

THE TORIES cut my PIP disability benefits in February.

The privatised "health expert" challenged my medical diagnoses because I maintained eye contact and gesticulated with my hands.

I lost my motability car and the money I relied on for healthy ready meals and help at home.

Life has been very difficult since.

Challenging the decision

meant risking losing what little benefits I had left.

Last week, after 14 tortuous weeks of waiting, I opened the envelope and learned that my benefits will be restored and back paid.

I am over the moon.

We can't give up. Each individual needs solidarity and support to fight their corner in the big battle for the welfare state.

Nicola Field
South London

Curious case of a dog on a fracking site

A GUARD dog "poisoned" by anti-frackers at Third Energy's well showed no sign of poisoning, says a police report obtained through a Freedom of Information request.

The vet only kept the dog in the surgery as a precaution. So why the police investigation?

Why were two men arrested, including a 61 year old pulled off a bus?

It's because the state will plumb any depth to discredit those who fight



Not poisoned (posed by a model)

back, and a dog "poisoned" by campaigners is too enticing a gift to reject on the grounds of mere fact.

Anti-frackers should remember this as we

debate "correct" protest behaviour following a 650-name petition by Ryedale Residents Against Anti-Social Protest.

Whether we're fighting against fracking, for justice for Grenfell, or striking to protect pay and conditions, we'll never be good enough for our enemies.

So our job is to defend everybody fighting back, while, or course, debating what tactics can win.

Kim Hunter
Scarborough

Just a thought...

Unions should fight for more

ON READING that health workers have accepted a below inflation pay deal (Socialist Worker, 13 June), I thought, what is wrong with the union leaders?

Too much money at the top and they forget who put them there.

The unions fought tooth and nail in the past. And now the national officers give up and return everything. For god's sake, wake up.

Ian Connon
on Facebook

An eye for stereotypes

ARE YOU a gay man failing to live up to stereotypes of yourself as a fashionable socialite?

Well fear not, the Guardian newspaper is here to help.

Editors got Owen Jones to write an article called "straight eye for the queer guy" because he's been voted one of Britain's worst dressed men.

This dubious accolade is presented as 100 times more embarrassing because Jones is gay.

Because if there's one thing LGBT+ people need in 2018, it's straight people helping us live up to stereotypes more successfully.

Bethan Turner
East London

Freedom for Palestine

THE PALESTINIAN yacht Freedom recently called in at Brighton Marina for five days.

It took a message of hope and solidarity from the people of Sussex to the Palestinian people in Gaza.

The vessel was given a tremendous send off. Speakers called on the British government to end its support for the blockade of the Gaza Strip.

Steve Guy
Brighton

Labour needs to shape up

LABOUR IS failing because it hasn't adapted.

It also lacks a straight forward message like in the days of Keir Hardie and the infighting strengthens the right.

Peter Morgan
on Facebook

HE'S A WARMONGER

DONALD TRUMP has brought the world closer to nuclear annihilation than at any other time during the last 50 years.

He boasted that the US could have killed millions of people if he hadn't signed the deal with North Korea.

"I think you could have lost 20 million people or 30 million people," he said at a press conference. "This is really an honour for me to do this. I think potentially you could have lost 30 million or 40 million people."

"The city of Seoul."

Trump has changed his tune—for now—but his posturing over using nuclear weapons is a chilling glimpse of how he views human lives. He had previously threatened to "totally destroy North Korea".

"North Korea best not make any more threats to the United States," he said. "They will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen."

And Trump remains as much of a warmonger as ever.

Further US involvement in the war in Syria is increasingly likely.

In response to alleged Russian involvement in a chemical weapons attack, Trump threatened a US missile attack. He tweeted, "Get ready Russia, because they will be coming, nice and new and 'smart!'"

HE BACKS FASCISTS

A **NAZI** murdered anti-fascist protester **Heather Heyer** in Charlottesville, Virginia, last summer. Trump said there was "blame on both sides".

"You had a group on one side that was bad. You had a group on the other side that was also very violent," he said.

It took Trump two days to criticise the fascist mobilisation.

Trump had courted elements of the far right in the US.

White supremacist Steve Bannon was White House chief strategist between January and August 2017. And Trump has retweeted Twitter accounts including @WhiteGenocide and fascist Britain First.

His support boosts the far right and gives them the oxygen they need to grow.

That makes protesting against his visit—and against the resurgent fascist threat in Britain—vitally important.

HE BOASTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

SPEAKING WITH TV presenter Billy Bush, Trump boasted that he could treat women however he liked because he was famous.

Trump said he could "grab 'em by the pussy" and "just start kissing them".

Natasha Stoyanoff, Rachel Crooks, Jessica Leeds and Jill Harth all said that Trump had sexually assaulted them.

"He was relentless," said Harth. "I didn't know how to handle it."

Trump's record of sexual assault and sexist comments stretches back decades.



NAZIS MARCHING in Charlottesville, Virginia, last year (top). One of their number killed anti-fascist protester Heather Heyer by deliberately aiming their car at demonstrators. Steve Bannon (above) is revered by white supremacists and was appointed White House Chief Strategist by Trump



PROTESTING AGAINST racism

HE IS A HOMOPHOB

TRUMP HAS frequently spoken out against equal marriage. "I'm not in favour of gay marriage. They should not be able to marry. I just don't feel good about it. I don't feel right about it," he said in 2011.

And Trump has surrounded himself with homophobes in the White House.

Attorney general Jeff Sessions campaigned for legislation to make it easier for bosses to discriminate against people based on their sexual orientation or gender identification.

Housing secretary Ben Carson described trans people as "abnormal".

HE IS A FRIEND OF THE RICH

TRUMP IS a billionaire, ruling class fighter who's slashed taxes for the rich and corporations.

In 2017 he cut corporation tax by at least 20 percent.

The US was already more unequal in terms of income than at any time in 150 years, with 41 million US citizens living in poverty. But the tax bill grabbed health insurance from some 13 million people.

And other measures included opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil and gas exploration.

HE ATTACKS WORKERS

WHEN HE was campaigning to get elected, Trump said, "The American worker will finally have a president who will protect them and fight for them."

The opposite has been true. The Department of Labour announced last month it would roll back limits on 16 and 17 year-olds working in dangerous jobs, such as roofing and chainsaw operating.

This is just one of Trump's attacks on workplace health and safety regulations. So far 1,579 regulations have been withdrawn.



TEN CRIMES OF TRUMP

Bigot-in-chief Donald Trump will descend on Britain on Friday 13 July. He is a warmonger, racist and sexist who is admired by the far right. Alistair Farrow looks at the reasons to join the protests against this dangerous reactionary

HE BACKS ANTI-CHOICE BIGOTS

TRUMP ATTENDED the anti-choice March for Life in Washington DC in January—an unprecedented move for a sitting US president.

"Right now, in a number of states, the laws allow a baby to be torn from his or her mother's womb in the ninth



FIGHTING FOR a woman's right to choose on abortion

month," he said. "It is wrong. It has to change."

Anti-abortion vice president Mike Pence introduced Trump to the stage as "the most pro-life president in American history." "He will restore the sanctity of life," he said.

In 2016, when asked if he backed punishment for women who had abortion, Trump said, "Yeah, there has to be some form."

HE IS A RACIST

TRUMP'S RACISM goes far back beyond his time in office or when he was campaigning to become president.

When he was a real estate mogul in New York, Trump's firms were sued twice for discouraging renting apartments to African Americans.

From 1989 Trump took out adverts in newspapers arguing that five black and Latino young men be given the death penalty. They had been accused of raping a white woman in Central Park, New York.

Trump continued to argue for their deaths until 2016—ten years after they had been exonerated by DNA evidence.

More recently, he has described Mexicans as "rapists". He attacked the mainly black American football players who knelt during the national anthem at the beginning of matches in protest against police violence and killings.

And he has referred to some African and Latin American countries as "shithole countries".

HIS IMMIGRATION CRACKDOWNS ARE BRUTAL

TRUMP HAS given border authorities the power to immediately imprison undocumented migrants after they are caught.

And immigration raids are increasing.

His attorney general Jeff Sessions has decided that people fleeing domestic or gang violence are no longer entitled to claim asylum.

Migrants with children are now separated from them once they are picked up. Now many of those children are being housed in a tent city in the Texas town of Tornillo.

The White House chief of staff was asked about what provisions the government had made for the new influx of children the policy would create. He said children "will be taken care of—put into foster care or whatever"

And people already living in the US without documents are facing deportation after Trump got rid of Temporary Protected Status for people from ten countries. In May 90,000 Hondurans lost their status.



RAIDS ARE spreading fear through immigrant communities, and Trump wants to ramp them up still further (left). Vice President Mike Pence (below, left) is an avowed anti-choice bigot who wants to change the law on abortion

HE IS A CLIMATE CHANGE DENIER

"THE CONCEPT of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make US manufacturing non-competitive," Trump said in 2011.

His views have already had a big impact.

Just this month Harvard university scientists used US government statistics to show that Trump cancelling clean air and water policies will kill an extra 80,000 people every decade.

They described this as an "extremely conservative" estimate.

Before taking office Trump even suggested scrapping the Environmental Protection Agency. He's already ripped up already limited climate change agreements.

In May the White House cut a NASA space agency programme to monitor the reduction of emissions. It was part of the space programme's strategy to monitor the effects of climate change. It cost just £8 million.

Demonstrate Fri 13 July, 2pm
BBC, Portland Place, W1A 1AA



Rally in Trafalgar Square, 5pm
Transport from across Britain

See **Together against Trump** on Facebook for more details

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

MANCHESTER: CENTRAL

Booklaunch—'Kill all the Gentlemen'

With author Martin Empson
Wed 27 Jun, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M2 5NS

PORTSMOUTH

Marx@200—the revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx

Speaker—Joseph Choonara
Wed 27 Jun, 7.30pm,
Somerstown Community
Centre, River's St,
PO5 4EZ

SCARBOROUGH

Booklaunch—'Kill all the Gentlemen'

With author Martin Empson
Sat 30 Jun, 7.30pm,
Tap and Spile,
94 Falsgrave Rd,
YO12 5AZ

YORK

Booklaunch—'Kill all the Gentlemen'

With author Martin Empson
Thu 28 Jun, 7.30pm,
Priory Street
Community Centre,
15 Priory St,
YO1 6ET

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

Why we hate Mondays—Marxism and alienation

Wed 27 Jun, 6pm,
Belmont Cinema Cafe,
49 Belmont St,
AB10 1JS

BARNSELY

The US in the Trump era

Thu 28 Jun, 7pm,
YMCA, Blucher St,
S70 1AP

BIRMINGHAM

One year on—how do we get justice for Grenfell?

Wed 27 Jun, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38/40 Holloway Circus,
B1 1EQ

BOLTON

1968—the year the world caught fire

Wed 27 Jun, 7pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off
Bradshawgate),
BL1 1DY

BRISTOL

Is Corbynism in retreat?

Wed 27 Jun, 7.30pm,
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

CARDIFF

Where next in the fight for abortion rights?

Wed 27 Jun, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace,
CF24 4HX



Tommy Robinson supporters

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

How do we stop the rise of racism and the fascist far right?

EDINBURGH
Wed 27 Jun, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting
House,
7 Victoria St,
EH1 2JL

LONDON: HARINGEY
Wed 27 Jun 7.30pm,
St John Vianney
Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd,
N15 3QH

WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL
Wed 4 Jul, 7.30pm,
Wild Bytes Cafe,
Darlington St,
WV1 4HW

The rise of the far right—what do we say about free speech?

DUDLEY
Wed 27 Jun, 8pm,
The What Centre,
23 Coventry St,
Stourbridge,
DY8 1EP

LONDON: CENTRAL
Thu 28 Jun 6.15pm,
Room 235, UCL Foster
Court Building,
Malet Pl,
WC1F 6BT

LONDON: SOUTH
Wed 27 Jun, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre, 2b
Saltoun Rd (near Effra
Rd, facing Windrush Sq),
Brixton, SW2 1EP

COLCHESTER

After the Irish referendum—where next in the fight for abortion rights?

Thu 28 Jun, 7.30pm,
Hythe Community Centre,
1 Ventura Drive,
CO1 2FG

COVENTRY

Trump, fake news and alternative facts—who controls the media?

Wed 27 Jun, 7.30pm,
The Golden Cross, 8 Hay Ln,
CV1 5RF

DERBY

Film showing: Capitalism in crisis—is the long depression over?

Thu 28 Jun, 7pm,
West End Community
Centre, Mackworth Rd,
DE22 3BL

DONCASTER

One year on—how do we get justice for Grenfell?

Tue 26 Jun, 7.30pm,
The Womens Centre (Changing
Lives), 5 Princes St,
DN1 3NJ

GLASGOW

A world without war—imperialism and the arms trade

Thu 28 Jun, 7pm,
Avant Garde, 33-44 King
St, Merchant City,
G1 5QT

HARLOW

Will Palestine ever be free?

Thu 28 Jun, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
1 Church Leys,
CM18 6BX

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

After the Irish referendum—where next in the fight for abortion rights?

Thu 28 Jun, 7pm,
The Swarthmore Education
Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Sq, LS3 1AD

LONDON: ISLINGTON

Why we hate Mondays—Marxism and Alienation

Wed 27 Jun, 7pm,
The Old Fire Station,
84 Mayton St,
N7 6QT

LONDON: LEWISHAM

Africa and imperialism today

Wed 27 Jun, 7.30pm,
West Greenwich Community
and Arts Centre,
141 Greenwich High Rd,
SE10 8JA

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Do we need violence to get real social change?

Wed 27 Jun, 7.30pm,
William Morris
Community Centre,
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,
Walthamstow,
E17 6QQ

LONDON: WEST

Stephen Lawrence 25 years on—police, racism and the state

Thu 28 Jun, 7.30pm,
Wood Lane Community
Centre, 78 White City Close,
Shepherd's Bush, W12 7DZ

NORWICH

Can May stay?

Thu 28 Jun, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place,
NR2 2SA

OXFORD

After the Irish referendum—where next in the fight for abortion rights?

Wed 27 Jun, 7.30pm,
Restore Building,
Manzil Way,
OX4 1YH

ROTHERHAM

One year on—how do we get justice for Grenfell?

Wed 27 Jun, 7pm,
Talbot Lane Methodist
Church Centre, Moorgate St,
S60 2EY

SCARBOROUGH

Confronting the Nazis—The Battle of Lewisham (film with participants)

Wed 27 Jun, 7.30pm,
Tap and Spile,
94 Falsgrave Rd,
YO12 5AZ

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

Marxism and religion—sigh of the oppressed

Thu 28 Jun, 7pm,
Central United Reformed
Church, 60 Norfolk St
(near Crucible Theatre),
S1 2JB

SWANSEA

After the Irish referendum—where next in the fight for abortion rights?

Thu 28 Jun, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd,
SA2 0BP

WIGAN

The bloody history of the World Cup

Thu 28 Jun, 7pm,
Little Fifteen pub, 17-19
Wallgate (opposite
Wigan Post Office),
WN1 1LD

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

DORCHESTER

Britain's dirty secret—the truth about immigration detention

Sat 23 Jun, 1.30pm,
Colliton Club,
Colliton Park,
DT1 1XJ.
Organised by Dorset Socialists

NATIONAL

Marxism 2018—a festival of socialist ideas

Thu 5 till Sun 8 July,
central London. A four-day
political festival hosted by
the Socialist Workers Party.
marxismfestival.org.uk

Speakers include Ilan Pappé,
Janet Alder, John Bellamy
Foster and Ghada Kharmi

Together Against Trump—national demonstration

Fri 13 July, Nationwide.
Go to Together Against Trump:
national demo on Facebook

WOLVERHAMPTON

Stand together against Trump

Wed 27 Jun, 7.30pm,
Darlington St Methodist
Church, 24 School St,
WV1 4LF

BRIGHTON

Dump Trump

Thu 28 Jun, 7.30pm,
Community Base,
113 Queens Rd,
BN1 3XG

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Kahlo's layers on show, but her politics are suppressed

The V&A's Frida Kahlo exhibition is a rare opportunity to see an artist whose distinctive imagery still has the power to impress, writes **Sarah Bates**

FRIDA KAHLO'S carefully constructed private, public and professional identity is thoroughly unpicked in a new exhibition, *Making Her Self Up*.

Given how central politics was to Kahlo's life and work, it's a shame more is not made of her commitment to Marxism.

Perhaps it's unsurprising that the V&A, managed by that crosser of picket lines Tristram Hunt, doesn't focus on Kahlo's revolutionary politics. Nevertheless, it's a sanitisation of Kahlo's legacy.

In 2004, Kahlo's bedroom was opened, after being sealed for fifty years following her death in 1954. In it were 6,000 photos and over 300 personal possessions, some of which are on display here alongside her artwork for the first time.

At times it's a painfully intimate look at her life—Kahlo's prosthetic leg is here, as are her corsets, medicine and make up.

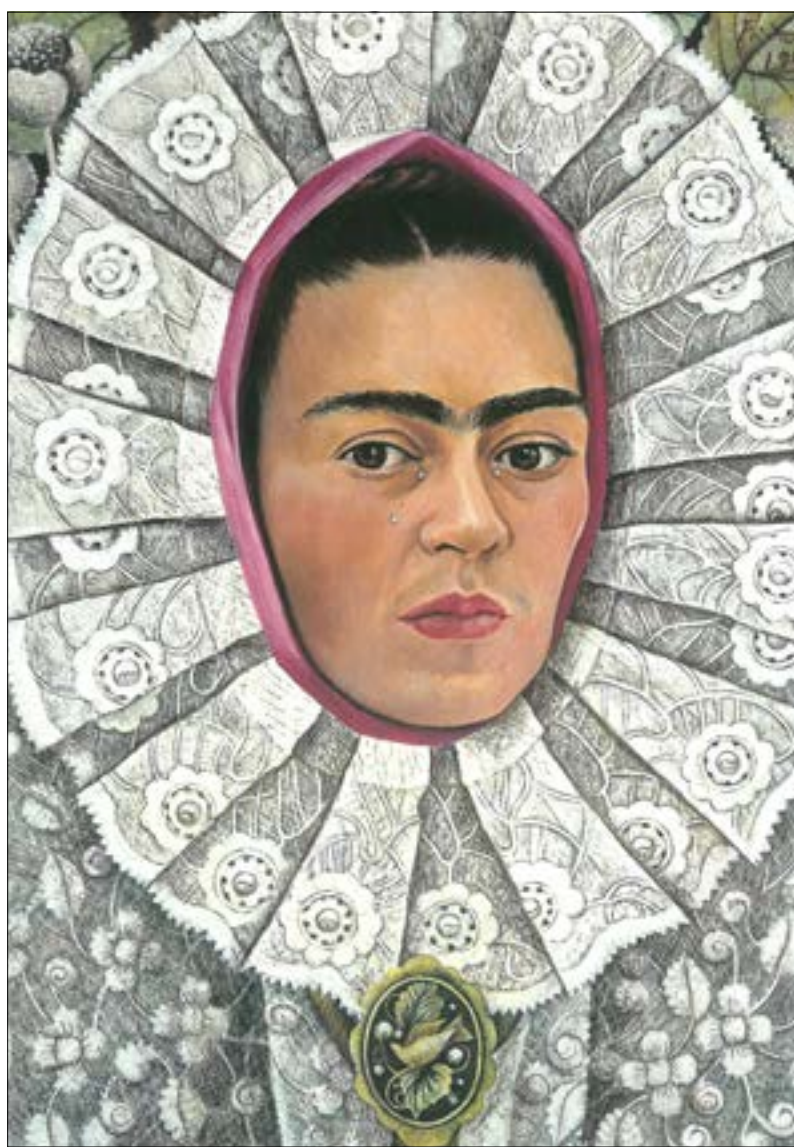
Kahlo's personal effects show, perhaps more starkly than her paintings, her determination to control her environment.

So the prosthetic leg is dressed in luxurious red leather and a plaster corset, which was medically necessary, but elaborately decorated.

Kahlo was influenced by the Mexican revolution of her childhood. It's this legacy that shaped a new generation of artists who fostered a deep sense of pride in the country's customs and history.

Mexico is a running theme throughout her work. Many of her paintings have distinctive Mexican architecture or imagery.

One of the most notable elements of Kahlo's artistic output was her



SELF-PORTRAIT, Frida Kahlo, 1948

wardrobe. There are lots of images in the show of the artist in traditional Mexican traditional dresses.

The display of her dresses is a highlight of the exhibition.

The vibrant colours and heavy textiles of her clothes collection creates a breathtakingly beautiful effect. And a Tuhuana headdress, made of reams of white lace and pink ribbon, is displayed alongside a self-portrait of Kahlo wearing it.

But among the most interesting pieces is her artwork—and one of the most striking paintings is Henry Ford Hospital.

Created shortly after a miscarriage, Kahlo lies naked and vulnerable in a bed. Floating around her are symbols of fertility and nature—one of these is a foetus. It's a stark contrast to the defiant character of so many of her other self-portraits.

Bereavement

Kahlo used art to deal with this bereavement, one of many other losses, for the rest of her life. But Kahlo is more than someone who overcame adversity—her art still has power to touch.

An intimate painting from 1949 shows Kahlo in the lap of the Mexican god of nature, cradling her husband Diego Rivera in her arms.

The collection is a fitting tribute to Kahlo—someone too often dismissed as a narcissist or reduced to her relationships with men.

The exhibition is excellent, and those wanting to find out more from one of the 20th century's most influential artists should go to see it.

Frida Kahlo—*Making Her Self Up* until 4 November. Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW6 2RL

EXHIBITION

THE SUMMER EXHIBITION

Royal Academy of Arts, London, W16 0BD. Until 19 August. £16, £11 concessions

THIS 250th Summer Exhibition is a rare open submission show.

The best 1,300 works are displayed, with the jury promising more new artists than ever before.

The theme is "art made now" and art will spill out onto the streets.

But there are also pieces from better-known artists such as David Hockney and David Shrigley.



Art Made Now

TELEVISION

ATLANTA

Sundays at 10pm, Fox

AFTER ALMOST breaking the internet with his *This Is America* video, Donald Glover is back to what he does just as well—the comedy drama *Atlanta*.

Glover plays main character Earn who left a top university to manage the rap career of his cousin.

Returning this week after a hugely successful first season, *Atlanta*'s second outing looks set to solidify Glover as one of the best writers of his generation.

TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

- 1 **'Kill all the Gentlemen'**
Martin Empson
- 2 **Politics of the Mind—Marxism and Mental Distress**
Iain Ferguson
- 3 **The Fire Last Time—1968 and after**
Chris Harman
- 4 **Natives—Race and Class in the Ruins of Empire**
Akala
- 5 **A Rebel's Guide to Martin Luther King**
Yuri Prasad

Phone 020 7637 1848
bookmarksbookshop.co.uk
Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE

War novel set in alternate reality is a bewitching read

BOOK

WITCHMARK

By CL Polk

PART FANTASY, part war novel, *Witchmark* is set in an alternative early 20th century and makes for interesting reading.

It tells the story of Miles, a doctor who escapes the slavery of his magical family and travels to the front lines of a world war.

After a dying witch is brought to his hospital, he must sacrifice his freedom

in order to uncover the truth of a grisly imperialist war.

In part, *Witchmark* reads like Pat Barker's *Regeneration* Trilogy.

Both works explore the harsh realities of war and the effect it has on the minds of those forced to fight it.

Service

Miles finds himself hiding his true identity from those who wish to bring him back into the service of his upper class family. But he also has a desire

to help his patients with his gifts.

There is no glorification of war in this novel, simply a bleak and uncompromising reality.

Class lines are also clearly drawn.

Those in charge are free to wield their magical power for control of their people, while any lower class

witches are condemned and forced to hide themselves.

Witchmark is the first in a series, and does not fall into the trap of giving too much detail, as first books often can.

Instead the reader is thrown straight into the plot and the world-building unfolds as the story goes



on. However, some of the pacing seems a little off, with parts of the story dragging and other parts feeling a little rushed.

Overall, the book is worthwhile reading, especially because of its portrayal of a LGBT+ relationship, and the books unflinching depiction of war.

It will be interesting to see where author CL Polk takes this story, and whether we will be seeing revolution in later volumes.

Gabby Thorpe

THE sight of 15,000 people rallying for jailed Nazi poster boy Tommy Robinson has forced the whole left to reassess the danger of the far right.

To understand how anti-fascists should respond to this renewed threat, it's important to look at what fascism is and the different ways we've fought it before.

Fascists aim to build a mass movement that can terrorise their opponents and minorities—and ultimately smash all democratic rights.

The full horror was seen in the Holocaust when the Nazis murdered six million Jews—a third of Europe's Jewish population—and a further five million opponents.

Robinson stands in a long line of British fascists who have fantasised about emulating the Nazis' regime.

They have not been in a position to fulfil their ambitions. Sections of the German ruling class handed Hitler power in 1933 in the hope that the fascists' mass movement could deal with a rising working class movement.

While the political situation is different, that doesn't mean that fascists are not dangerous. Anti-fascists in Britain have had to mobilise repeatedly against them through united fronts of socialists, trade unionists, Muslims, Jews and others.

THE ANTI Nazi League took on the National Front (NF) in the 1970s and 1990s. And Unite Against Fascism beat the British National Party (BNP) and English Defence League (EDL) in the 2000s.

Their strategy was based on mass campaigning, not action by small groups or individuals. It meant leafleting, patient propaganda work and arguments at work and in local areas.

It also involved mobilisations to deny the fascists the streets.

The aim is through confrontation to split off the hardcore Nazi leadership from the wider racist periphery in order to push back the movement.

Precisely how our side has organised against them depends on the sort of threat that the Nazis pose and the strength of our forces.

At some points Nazis have been in a position to organise a violent street movement against Muslims and black people.

In January 2010 Tommy Robinson's EDL organised an Islamophobic race riot in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent. They rampaged through the streets of the town and smashed up Asian shops and homes.

It was a wake-up call to anti-fascists and the wider left.

Afterwards Unite Against Fascism (UAF) was able to



Stopping the far right For Britain party appearing at an elections hustings in Lewisham, south east London, last week

wore ANL badges and stickers in workplaces, campuses and schools. The ANL, alongside Rock Against Racism, organised three carnivals.

The first saw 80,000 people march from Trafalgar Square to thousands more in Victoria Park in the East End of London. It was a crucial part of transforming the political atmosphere by giving confidence to anti-fascists in NF strongholds. By the early 1980s, the NF had splintered into warring groups.

Often Nazis are at their most violent when they have been reduced into a rump.

When Nazi Thomas Mair killed Labour MP Jo Cox in June 2016, he shouted, "Britain first—keep Britain independent." Britain First, a split from the BNP, is one of the plethora of fascist groups that have been holding tiny weekend protests and stunts.

Anti-fascists organised local counter-protests in their areas. But the scale of the threat that the likes of Britain First posed was nowhere near the EDL—and the main threat of racism came from the state.

But there was always a danger that politicians and the press's racism against Muslims, migrants and refugees could boost fascists.

The Finsbury Park Mosque attacker Darren Osborne was inspired by Robinson and Britain First's Jayda Fransen. But Osborne's attack also came in the context of Theresa May ramping up Islamophobia after the London Bridge terror attack.

HOW WE CAN BEAT THE NAZIS

The far right are on the march, and aligned with hardened fascists. **Tomáš Tengely-Evans** argues that we can defeat them by mass campaigns and confronting them on the streets



A protester on a fascist demo earlier this month

organise bigger counter mobilisations and push back the EDL.

Anti-fascists didn't always outnumber the EDL and more often than not did not have the numbers to stop them marching.

But it helped win an argument that the EDL posed a national threat—and that people had to stem their rise by coming out onto the streets.

This long-term campaigning meant it was reduced to a rump of hardcore Nazis. And when Robinson quit the EDL leadership in 2013, he tellingly said



It's not inevitable the left will benefit from the crisis in society

street mobilisations were "no longer productive".

In the 1970s the NF was doing well in local and by-elections. Alongside its electoral strategy, it organised marches and terrorised black and Asian people, socialists and trade unionists.

The Anti Nazi League (ANL) was launched and organised mobilisations when the NF tried to march. But alongside coming out on the streets, it was also necessary to take on wider racism within society.

As a result of mass campaigning, more and more people

ANTI-racists organised a vigil outside the mosque and fought to take on the wider Islamophobia being pushed by the state. The response didn't involve a shift towards building for big mobilisations against Britain First.

The key question is whether fascists are able to mobilise as a movement on the streets.

Up until recently they were capable of organising only smaller protests and racist violence—they have very much been a rump.

The jailing of Robinson last month has concretely changed that situation.

His supporters managed to mobilise 15,000 Nazis and racists onto the streets of London—far bigger than what the EDL was capable of in its heyday.

The different forces which make up the British far right are trying to realign. The fascists see a chance to rebuild a movement on the streets.

And, alarmingly, Ukip leader Gerrard Batten has thrown his lot in with Robinson after his party's recent demise. The bridge between the two is the Democratic Football Lads Alliance (DFLA).

Robinson's supporters have fed off racism pushed from the top—and specifically state-sponsored Islamophobia. They

rampaged through Leeds chanting, "Muslims off our streets". Four days later a mosque and Sikh gurdwara suffered arson attacks.

Some within the movement argue this means anti-racists should not focus on confrontation but instead hold more general anti-racist events.

Anti-racist demonstrations are important and Stand Up To Racism has organised ones of 30,000 and 20,000.

But that doesn't remove the need for specifically confronting the Nazis in large numbers and denying them their chance to feel powerful, to intimidate and attack people, and to grow.

EQUALLY IT won't be enough to have a big demonstration on 13 July against Trump but not mobilise against the Nazis the next day.

The links between the return to prominence of Robinson and the confidence generated by Trump are clear. And it's no coincidence that Robinson's supporters have called their next major rally for Saturday 14 July, around the time of Trump's visit.

A new feature of the recent far right demonstrations has been the presence of Trump admirers and alt-right figures. Former Trump adviser Steve Bannon sent a text of support to Robinson.

Generation Identity—made up of alt-right supporters—was one of the most popular groups at the rally.

That means it is important to build for the Together Against Trump demonstration on Friday 13 July.

If his visit is allowed to pass without mass opposition then every fascist, racist and bigot will feel good.

If he faces big protests, it will be a boost to the left and anti-racists.

But the toxic forces that are now coalescing around Robinson also gain confidence by rampaging through the streets and we must face them there.

Organising a demonstration on a day that the fascists are not mobilising may show there are more anti-racists than fascists in Britain.

But it won't break the fascists' confidence.



Anti-fascists and local young people mobilised against the fascist EDL in Dudley in 2010 (above)
PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

Let's march against Trump and then take on the Nazis.

These are the immediate aims, but there also needs to be a long-term strategy.

The left has grown massively in confidence in the last year, particularly with the support around Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour Party.

But the fascists' rise is a sign that there's nothing inevitable about only the left benefiting from the crisis in society.

We have to fight austerity, but that doesn't remove the necessity for a specific battle with the Nazis.

There are six million trade unionists and 550,000 Labour Party members.

Mobilising even a portion of such strength would stop the Robinson crew and the rest of such forces in their tracks.

Black people, minorities, unions, Labour, anti-racists, women, LGBT + people—all those under threat—have to defeat the new fascist street movement.

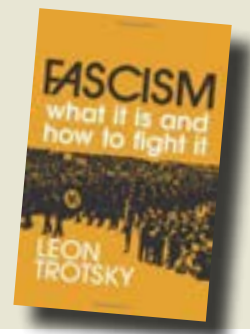
READ MORE

● **Fascism—what it is and how to fight it** by Leon Trotsky. £4.50

● **All out to stop the racists from organising** by Michael Bradley bit.ly/AIIIOut

● **The real face of Tommy Robinson** by Tomáš Tengely-Evans bit.ly/RealRobinson

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



Don't let the Leave vote be written off as backward

The campaign for a "People's Vote" on Brexit is based on liberal snobbery toward workers, says **Sadie Robinson**



OPPOSING BREXIT may seem righteous, but it's not

BACK STORY

Brexit is a headache for Theresa May's government

- The Tories are split over the question
- The referendum was called to settle the dispute
- It backfired on David Cameron and he had to resign
- It could also be the end of Theresa May

illegal immigrants has rightly angered many people," it says.

It adds that free movement needs "mending" and "tying" it to "offers of employment".

While some people voted Leave for racist reasons, many others did not. The vote reflected a deep bitterness towards the establishment—and class shaped it.

The overwhelming majority of Britain's bosses backed Remain as did the main political parties.

The only social group where a majority, 57 percent, voted Remain was the AB group of professionals, managers, lecturers and teachers, according to a detailed poll by Lord Ashcroft.

Yet nearly two thirds of C2s (skilled manual workers), Ds (other manual workers) and Es (pensioners, unemployed and benefit claimants) voted Leave.

Socialist Worker backed a Leave vote because we oppose the neoliberal, racist EU. It is a mechanism to protect one group of bosses' interests against others.

It has enforced rulings that undermine workers' rights and border controls that drown refugees in the sea.

The EU has not protected workers' jobs, pay, conditions or pensions. Nor has Britain's EU membership blocked racism.

The Leave vote reflected a feeling among ordinary people that the system has failed them. They deserve more than a "choice" between liberals who, in different ways, want to keep that system going.



Class shaped the vote to Leave, and reflected deep bitterness

Universal credit is cruel and useless

by SADIE ROBINSON

THE TORY rollout of Universal Credit (UC) unlawfully discriminates against disabled people, the High Court ruled last week.

Two disabled men, TP and AR, were forced onto the benefit after moving to an area where it was being rolled out.

They had previously received the Severe Disability Premium and Enhanced Disability Premium, which support severely disabled people who live alone with no carer.

Both lost around £178 a month after moving to UC—and were denied top-up benefits. TP described how a diagnosis of end stage non-Hodgkin Lymphoma cancer at the age of 51 saw his life “completely and suddenly thrown upside down”.

“I became reliant on financial support from the welfare system,” he said. “To add to the stress of being seriously ill and undergoing very arduous treatments that have left me unable to work, I have had to take time off from convalescing to fight in the courts for subsistence level benefits.”

BACK STORY

Universal Credit replaces six other benefits with one

● It's aim is to make life for those out of work even harder—and make those in work so terrified of having to claim UC that they accept poor conditions

● An official report slammed UC last week—and pointed out that Tory claims about the benefits of the scheme are “unproven”

● A full quarter of new claims were paid late in 2017—and the average delay was four weeks

● UC has pushed more people to use food banks to survive

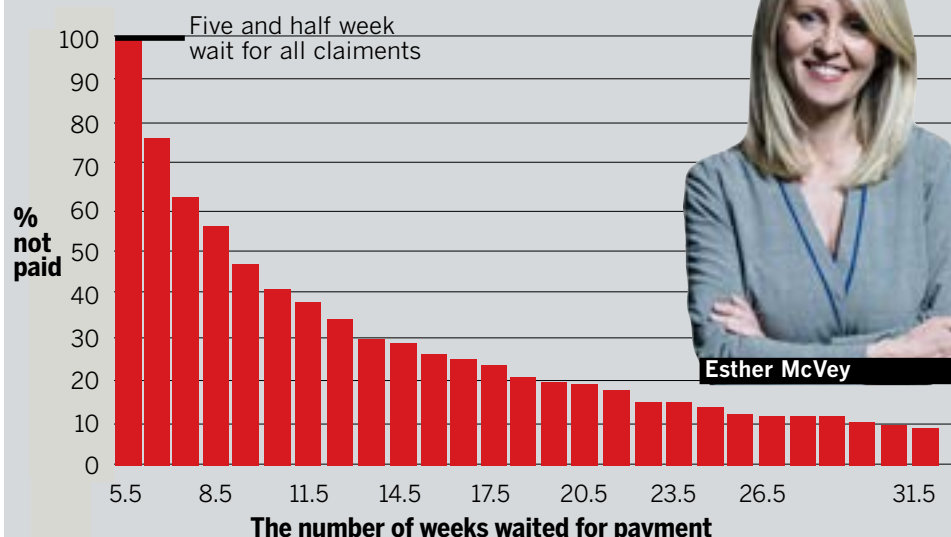
He said the cut in benefits “made it so much harder for me to cope” and was “detrimental to my health”. After the court decision TP says he feels he has been vindicated.

AR said, “So many people have been badly affected by the roll out of Universal Credit. I know it is a time of austerity. But I do not

understand why the government are trying to penny-pinch from what is a relatively small and very vulnerable group, namely, severely disabled people without a carer.”

Mr Justice Lewis dismissed a claim that the system broke the Equality Act and that some parts of UC regulations are discriminatory.

DELAYS IN PAYMENTS



Esther McVey

said that “many” claimants who have moved onto UC have “suffered difficulties and hardship”.

One DWP survey found that four in ten were experiencing financial difficulties.

A quarter of new claims were paid late in 2017—and the average delay was four weeks.

Introduced

The report also described increases in rent arrears and food bank use since UC was introduced.

PCS union general secretary Mark Serwotka said the report showed the rollout should be suspended immediately.

The Tories claim the scheme is about saving money and helping people.

In reality it's geared towards making life even harsher for claimants and terrorising workers into accepting poor conditions.

And the report found that UC has created a number of extra costs for councils and others. But “these extra costs are not included in the Department's estimates of the programme's costs”.

ity Premium will be made to move onto UC.

Yet for all the fake concern for claimants, work and pensions secretary Esther McVey has sought permission to appeal against last week's judgement.

Meanwhile UC continues to be condemned. A National Audit Office report last week

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Wigan health striker says, 'Join protest to keep the NHS public'

A march in London on 30 June can help take on the Tories' plans to push outsourcing and privatisation in the NHS ahead of the service's 70th birthday, says **Tomáš Tengely-Evans**

HEALTH WORKERS at the forefront of resisting privatisation are calling on people to join the NHS at 70 march in London on Saturday 30 June.

The date will be day three of a five-day strike for the 600 porters, cleaners and support workers in Wigan Borough. They have already held two 48-hour walkouts against plans to outsource their jobs.

"The Tories want to get their hands on the NHS and make as much money as possible," striker Edmund told Socialist Worker. "In America people have to pay for treatment and that's what bosses want here."

"But the NHS has always been a not-for-profit organisation—and that's the way it should stay."

Bosses at Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust want to outsource 900 jobs to WWL Solutions Ltd. It is part of a growing army of "wholly-owned subsidiaries"—a dangerous new form of privatisation in England.

While the trust is the sole shareholder, workers would no longer be on the NHS pay roll. After a short period bosses can slash wages, terms and conditions for the workers who transfer—and hire new starters on worse contracts.

The aim is to make the NHS run more like a business. And by outsourcing estates and facilities departments, private developers will be able to get their hands on hospitals' lucrative land portfolios.

Edmund said, "I think the Tories are trying to hit a lot of hospitals at the same time. What's happening in Wigan is very similar to what they're doing all around the country—there are fights in Leeds, Chesterfield and other places."

Mushrooming

The mushrooming of wholly-owned subsidiaries represents a broader push by Tories and bosses to break up the health service.

"People are angry about the threat to terms and conditions, and staying in the NHS means we would keep them," said Edmund.

"But it's also about the pride of working in the NHS. A porter might not be best job in the world. But you are doing a very good thing because you're helping the patients—and that's what it's all about."

As the NHS approaches its 70th birthday on 5 July, it's far from in rude health. Years of Tory budget cuts and privatisation have over-worked and driven out workers, and undermined patient care.

But hundreds of local campaigns have sprung up against the multitude of attacks. The NHS at



A PROTEST for the NHS in London in February this year (above) saw tens of thousands march. Health strikers in Wigan (left) are at the forefront of fighting outsourcing—and will be on a march for the NHS later this month

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN AND SOCIALIST WORKER

Don't go back to charges for crucial care

MAUREEN CHARLES was born into a mining family in Wigan, Lancashire, in the 1930s.

She remembers how working class people suffered before the NHS was founded by the Labour government in 1948.

"During the war years my brother got pneumonia," she told Socialist Worker.

"After the doctor came and treated him, we had to put aside six pence a week for months to pay



Maureen Charles

off the bill. My father was a pitman and it was a lot of money.

"I used to get told feeling hungry is good, to this day I would never waste any food."

Maureen joined the Wigan workers' picket lines earlier this month because she's determined to stop the Tories' attempts to break up the NHS.

"We don't want to go back to that again", she said.

"People wouldn't be able to afford to pay these days either. Only the middle and upper classes would be able to get treatment."

What's Labour promising?

LABOUR leader Jeremy Corbyn's pledge to "renationalise" the NHS has boosted health campaigners who've been battling the deluge of cuts, closures and privatisation.

And if he announced that he will join the NHS at 70 demonstration it could add tens of thousands to its size.

Labour's shadow health secretary Jon Ashworth has said that he will reverse the latest drive to create "wholly-owned subsidiaries".

But Labour's manifesto does not always match up to the rhetoric.

It only promised to make the NHS the "preferred provider"—not to kick out all the privateers.

And even if the party shifts its position, the Tories could have four more years of wrecking the health service.

That's why it is right to march—and strike—now, not just wait until the next general election in the hope of a Labour government.

Celebrate and demonstrate—Our NHS is 70

Sat 30 June, 12 noon, Portland Place, London W1A

Supported by TUC, Health Campaigns Together, the People's Assembly, Unison, Unite, GMB, BMA, RCN, RCM and others
healthcampaignstogether.com #OurNHS70

On other pages...
Reasons to march against Donald Trump >>> Pages 10&11

IN BRIEF

Strikes lift pay for Gatwick workers

BAGGAGE HANDLERS and ground crew at London Gatwick Airport have scored a pay victory following their strike in March.

Almost 1,000 Unite union members have won an average 7.5 percent pay increase over two years.

Traffic wardens plan six stoppages

TRAFFIC WARDENS in Hackney, east London, plan to walk out for six days from 9 July in their fight for higher pay.

The Unite union members are fighting for a 5 percent pay rise and better terms and conditions. The 40 traffic wardens are employed by outsourcer APCOA Parking.

Walkouts to derail bosses' pay offer

WORKERS AT railways infrastructure company Unipart struck over pay on Wednesday of last week.

The RMT union members in Crewe are demanding an improvement on bosses' offer of 2.75 percent and a £500 payment.

Jubilee Line strikes are suspended

THE Aslef and RMT unions suspended a strike on the Jubilee Line planned for last Thursday.

The London Underground workers were fighting bosses' attempts to impose new timetables that would affect weekend working.

Union holds ballot across TGI Fridays

THE UNITE union is launching a consultative ballot of all of its members at TGI Fridays.

It's part of its campaign for reinstating the restaurant chain's old tipping policy.

This follows strikes at stores in London, Gateshead, Milton Keynes and Manchester.

Ministry cleaners demand pay justice

WORKERS AT the Ministry of Justice are beginning a ballot for strikes for the London Living Wage of £10.20 an hour and other demands.

The UVW union members are employed by outsourcer OCS Group.

Protest against luxury development

HOUSING campaigners were set to protest against the redevelopment of the Elephant and Castle shopping centre on Thursday.

It has been called by Stop the Elephant Development and Southwark Defend Council Housing.

Property developer Delancey wants to turn the centre into luxury flats.

JUSTICE CAMPAIGN



AROUND 200 people marched near Orgreave, South Yorkshire, last Saturday to mark the 34th anniversary of the Battle of Orgreave. It saw cops attack miners during the 1984-85 Miners' Strike, then frame 95 of them for riot. Ex-miners and campaigners have called for the government to announce an inquiry into police behaviour

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS

Biggest strike of year could be on the cards

THE BIGGEST strike ballot of the year so far began on Monday—and it could see up to 150,000 civil service workers walk out over pay.

The PCS union members are fighting hard to secure a big Yes vote in the run up to the ballot closing on 23 July. They are also pushing to reach the Trade Union Act's 50 percent turnout threshold.

Paul Williams, a PCS national executive member, spoke to Socialist Worker in a personal capacity.

"Around 35 PCS activists met in Birmingham last Saturday for a ballot training session," he said.

"It's one of a number held within the last two weeks aimed at encouraging activists to share ideas about how to win the vote."

He added, "Many new and younger activists are attending and people are leaving these sessions with renewed confidence. We've talked about phone banking, social media, and face to face meetings."



PCS ACTIVISTS say, 'our goal is 5 percent'

PICTURE: CANDY UDWIN

"Winning the vote will have a huge impact for PCS members and will breed confidence to resist."

The Tories are enforcing a 1 percent pay cap in key government departments despite lifting it—slightly—for NHS and some local government workers.

Cabinet office officials admitted to union negotiators in recent talks they were using

2015 spending budgets to calculate pay.

PCS general secretary Mark Serwotka said, "We will use the mandate we get from our members to press the government for a meaningful pay rise."

"But they should be in no doubt that if they fail to deliver the goods, we will deliver the biggest strike of the year in the summer."

SCHOOLS

Parents join picket lines

WORKERS AT Springfield School in Birmingham are continuing to hold three-day strikes every week in a dispute over the threat of redundancies.

Over 50 parents have repeatedly supported the picket lines. A solidarity petition launched by parents received over 1,000 local signatures within a few days.

And more workers in the school have joined the NEU union—meaning the strike is getting bigger. It is vital that strikers receive more messages of support from

schools and workplaces.

And the NEU is asking people to visit pickets to show their support and to encourage strikers to speak about the dispute.

The union is also asking supporters to take selfies with banners or signs saying, "We support the Springfield strikers".

Doug Morgan, Birmingham NEU (NUT section) assistant secretary

● Send messages of support and selfie shots to david.room@neu.org.uk or via text/Whatsapp to 07506 894 825

HIGHER EDUCATION

University workers push for struggle in their union

UCU UNION members were set to attend a special higher education sector conference in Manchester on Thursday.

Some 20 UCU branches held quorate meetings to demand the conference, which will discuss the USS pensions dispute.

It saw workers in over 60 older universities strike for 14 days to defend their USS pension scheme. The action forced bosses to retreat from an immediate plan to turn the scheme into a defined contribution scheme.

But UCU general secretary Sally Hunt encouraged workers to back a deal that fails to give guarantees on the USS's long term future.

Instead it set up a Joint Expert Panel (JEP) to look at the scheme.

Motions to the conference call for UCU members to have more say in what happens to the scheme and more transparency in the JEP.

The fact that the special conference is taking place



Sally Hunt

reflects the widespread anger among UCU members and that many want to fight to transform their union.

UCU members also plan to lobby the union's national executive committee meeting in central London on Friday.

The lobby was decided at a meeting of UCU congress delegates and activists in London earlier this month.

This kind of grassroots organising will be key in making sure workers defend their pensions, pay and condition—and hold union leaders to account.

● Longer version online

FURTHER EDUCATION

College workers win pay rise after series of strikes

UCU UNION members at Hackney College and Tower Hamlets College have won a pay rise after strikes.

Workers held several walkouts as part of a series of strikes over pay by UCU members in further education colleges.

New City College bosses have now agreed a deal that gives staff £800—a one-off payment of £400 and a £400 annual pay rise.

Hourly-paid workers at Hackney College will also be moved onto the teachers' pay spine. The deal represents around a 3 percent pay rise this year for the highest paid workers. For lower paid workers, it is an above-inflation pay deal.

■ THE UCU union suspended a planned five-day strike at Hull College Group after reaching a deal with bosses.

Workers at the group's three colleges in Hull, Goole and Harrogate had been due walk out on Monday.

They struck for three days in May in a fight against a restructure that put 231 full time equivalent jobs at risk.

A joint statement by management and the union said they would seek "to complete the restructure without the need for "compulsory redundancy".

Strikes, and the threat of escalating strikes, forced bosses to negotiate. They can also block attempts to make cuts in the future.

LANGDON PARK SCHOOL

Vote for all out walkout

TEACHERS AT Langdon Park School in Tower Hamlets, east London, are set to strike next Wednesday and Thursday.

The NEU union has called a further six strike days against an £800,000 cuts package.

But NEU members voted unanimously last week to press the union for an indefinite strike.

School support staff—Unison union members—are also balloting for strikes.

Paul McGarr

ACADEMISATION

ACTIVISTS FROM across England gathered in central London last Saturday to discuss the campaign against academisation of schools.

One workshop looked at how to change Labour Party education policy, which doesn't commit to take back academies into local authority control.

Another workshop looked at the current campaigns, including at John Roan school in south London. NEU union members there are set to strike on Wednesday.

Sara Tomlinson

● Longer version online

UNISON UNION

Unison conference cheers the workers fighting back

by SARAH BATES in Brighton

OVER 800 delegates attended the Unison union's local government conference in Brighton on Sunday and Monday.

Key debates were fighting for pay justice, oppression in the workplace, how to respond to Brexit and the fightback against austerity.

But many delegates were frustrated that there wasn't enough discussion about local government pay.

In March the union's National Joint Council recommended a pay deal, after 50.4 percent of members voted against it.

Anger

Maddy Cooper from Camden Unison told Socialist Worker, "There's a real anger on the conference floor because we don't fight and haven't had a pay rise in donkey's years."

But delegates did hear from strikers fighting in local disputes.

They included Glasgow janitors who won a 6 percent pay rise last year, and Birmingham home care workers who are battling council cuts and privatisation.

The conference also discussed new guidance on



BIRMINGHAM HOMECARE strikers addressing the conference

PICTURE: BIRMINGHAM UNISON

transgender inclusion.

Speaking against attacks on the new guidance, Jenny Harvey from Staffordshire said, "If you want to know how damaging these attacks are, just google Lucy Meadows [a transgender teacher who killed herself after she was viciously

attacked by the press].

"These people want to divide women, exclude women and define what women are.

"As a trans woman I will, we will, continue to stand for women-only positions in our union, because we are, I am, a woman."

The forthcoming visit from US president Donald Trump, and a demonstration by Tommy Robinson supporters led to calls for taking to the streets to oppose them.

Over 70 people attended the Socialist Workers Party fringe meeting on Grenfell.

During the meeting, Valerie

from Islington reflected on the "really frightening" experience of opposing Tommy Robinson supporters earlier in June.

She said, "We can't wait for Jeremy Corbyn, we don't have enough voices now. We need to tackle the schools and colleges."

Delegates also discussed how best to fight austerity.

Health

Andy Pattinson from Surrey works in mental health care. "I've never seen the service under so much pressure," he told conference.

"There is an acute shortage of beds meaning people are being left in the community or accident and emergency.

"This is both dangerous and unacceptable for patients and their families."

Education worker Julie urged conference to action. "We need to fight now for schools to be democratically run," she said.

"Because, if a Corbyn government is going to achieve anything there needs to be an army of people fighting for our schools to be run for children not for profit."

●The union's national conference for all sectors began on Tuesday. Updates at socialistworker.co.uk

HEALTH WORKERS

Hands off Wigan NHS

HUNDREDS OF health workers resisting the threat of outsourcing in Wigan borough plan to launch a five-day strike from Thursday of next week.

Bosses at Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh (WWL) NHS Trust want to outsource 600 porters, cleaners and support workers to WWL Solutions Ltd. It is a "wholly-owned subsidiary" (see page 17).

Unison and Unite union members have already held two 48-hour strikes over the last two months.

Unison, which represents the majority of workers, has called the walkout from Thursday. Workers in Unite will walk out alongside them for the five days—and will also strike on Wednesday of next week.

The action coincides with a meeting of the WWL Trust board. Some Unison members plan to show solidarity with the Unite members' picket lines during their lunch breaks.

Unite is not asking Unison to respect its picket lines.

But picket lines are organised so strikers can argue with colleagues and other groups of workers not to go in. Showing solidarity by not crossing picket lines is a crucial weapon in the hands of the working class.

BIRMINGHAM HOMECARE

97 percent strike vote

BIRMINGHAM HOME care workers are planning a return to the picket lines after a ballot has given a huge new mandate for action.

The Unison union members voted to strike by 97 percent on a 58 percent turnout.

A home carer told Socialist Worker, "We're going to keep on fighting, and the ballot vote shows more people have changed their minds."

The action is part of a year-long fight to defend the home enablement service from Labour-run Birmingham council's brutal cuts.

A year ago the council set out to implement 48 percent redundancies and a new split-shift service.

The new ballot includes wider demands on retaining mileage payments for all journeys made during a shift.

Another demand is about ensuring the service is still operated by the council.

A Unison activist said, "We want the service to stay in house. The private sector is really dreadful."

BFAWU UNION CONFERENCE

Bakers union vows to fight Trump and the far right

THE BAKERS Food and Allied Workers Union (Bfawu) held its annual conference last week.

This year was the union's centenary conference.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn addressed delegates, launching a five-point charter for the hospitality industry. He cited important strikes by McDonald's workers in Bfawu.

Union president, Ian Hodson attacked the culture of racist scapegoating. He said, "It wasn't a migrant coming here who got rid of council housing—that was a political decision."

Conference saw a series of emergency motions passed. The union reaffirmed its commitment to the Don't Buy the Sun campaign.

A motion was passed calling for the extension of abortion rights to Northern Ireland.

Delegates overwhelmingly passed an emergency motion supporting all efforts by Stand Up To Racism, Unite Against Fascism and others to oppose the protests in support of Tommy Robinson.

A motion was passed supporting protests against Donald Trump's visit on 13 July. Some 40 people attended a Stand Up To Racism fringe meeting.

General secretary Ronnie Draper called on delegates to, "Return to your union branches, and CLPs and let's campaign to get rid of trash like Robinson."

Alan Kenny

OIL WORKERS

Ballot in the North Sea

THE UNITE union is balloting offshore members at three North Sea platforms for industrial action over terms and conditions.

Workers at Total E&P on the Alwyn, Elgin and Dunbar platforms are voting until 28 June.

They agreed to work 14 days extra offshore at the height of the downturn in the oil industry. Now the union wants the days back and a return to a two weeks on, three weeks off rota.

The union claims the oil and gas firm has put forward a proposal for a rota of three weeks on and three weeks off—meaning an extra seven days offshore.

Wullie Wallace, Unite regional industrial officer, said, "No one should be expected to work 21 days in a row."

WORKERS' RIGHTS

TWO LEGAL cases highlighted the battle for workers' rights in the "gig economy" last week.

The first was the case of Gary Smith, who worked for Pimlico Plumbers for six years until 2011.

He requested a three-day working week after having a heart attack and was refused.

Last week the Supreme Court found that he was a worker, and not self-employed as the firm had claimed.

Worker status means Smith should have been entitled to benefits such as sick pay, although not all the benefits someone with employee status would be entitled to.

In another case, Deliveroo riders received permission for their judicial review of a previous block on their collective bargaining case against the firm to go ahead.

The workers' union, the Independent Workers of Great Britain, will now take the case forward.

RAIL WORKERS

Nothorn lines at a standstill

TRAIN GUARDS on Arriva Rail North (Northern) planned a strike on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

This is part of a dispute over the future of guards and safety on the railways.

Bosses refuse to guarantee that a second safety-trained member on staff will be on the train at all times.

The RMT union says more driver-only operation trains will make rail travel unsafe and inaccessible.

Workers were also due to strike on the Greater Anglia network 16-23 June, but this was suspended after a new offer from bosses. Guards on South Western Railway had been due to strike this week but it was called off for talks.

Coordinated strikes are the best way to keep up the pressure.

MAY'S NHS PLAN CREATES CHAOS

by TOMÁŠ TENGYEL-EVANS

THERESA MAY'S pledge to boost NHS funding through a £20 billion "Brexit dividend" backfired spectacularly on Monday.

The prime minister had hoped her announcement would pacify Tory rebels as they debated the EU Withdrawal Bill (see page 6).

Instead, the pledge "sparked a mutiny" as at least six other ministers fought for more funding, according to the Times newspaper.

May had hoped to claim that most of the £20 billion injection by 2023 would come through Brexit, not more tax.

Retreat

"As a country we will be contributing more, a bit more, but also we will have that sum of money that is available from the European Union," she said on Sunday.

But on Monday the health secretary Jeremy Hunt was in headlong retreat as he faced questions from MPs about where the money would come from.

"We are clear that there



TENS OF thousands of people marched to defend the NHS in London in February

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

will be an increased burden of taxation," he admitted.

Yet the Tories are refusing to say in detail how they'll fund the increase until the Budget this autumn.

There is also pressure on

the Labour leadership to say it will raise taxes for ordinary people, not just corporations and the rich. Shadow chancellor John McDonnell said he would roll back some, but not all, of the Tories'

corporation tax cuts to top up NHS funding.

Labour's manifesto promised to raise corporation tax from 19 percent to 26 percent by 2020—a move that could generate an extra £19 billion

a year. But at 26 percent, Corbyn's corporation tax rate would still be lower than it was under New Labour governments.

There is no need to raise taxes on working class

people. Last month's Sunday Times Rich List showed the 1,000 richest people and families saw their wealth increase by 10 percent in a year—to a record £724 billion.

Fortune

It names Tory party donor Mike Platt as Britain's richest hedge fund manager with a fortune of £3 billion. Seizing the wealth of this socially useless banker alone could fund 42,000 nurses' salaries for a year.

The NHS's 70th birthday is on 5 July. It's been pushed to the brink by Tory cuts and privatisation.

The £20 billion increase is in any case inadequate and the rate of increase lower than the average 3.7 percent a year rise in NHS funding over the last 70 years.

The Health Campaigns Together and People's Assembly NHS at 70 march in London on Saturday 30 June is a chance to fight for the funding that it needs.

More online

For more on NHS struggle go to bit.ly/NHSmarch

Ambulance workers strike

AMBULANCE workers in the north west of England struck as part of a long-running pay dispute on Monday.

The GMB union members are staging two-hour walkouts at the beginning of every day shift.

Bosses at North Western Ambulance Service (NWAS) have dragged their feet over a job re-evaluation process.

The GMB said paramedics working for NWAS have been waiting for the outcome of job evaluations going back over 12 years.

Mike Buoe, a GMB organiser, said

"paramedics have been backed into a corner" by the "pig-headed attitude of the NWAS top brass".

"They have waited patiently for many years while their job was re-evaluated for the years between 2005 and 2016," he said.

"NWAS asked what our members wanted.

"We told them that we wanted an independent investigation into what has happened during the past 13 years and an external evaluation of the job role.

"They flatly refused."

The workers voted by more than 84 percent in favour of strikes.

Whittington Hospital campaign says no to Rydon

HEALTH campaigners have written to Whittington Hospital board demanding they don't sign a contract with Ryhurst.

Ryhurst is a firm with links to a company centrally involved in Grenfell Tower—Rydon.

Bosses at the north London hospital want to hand over management of the estates and facilities strategy to Ryhurst.

Rydon carried out the refurbishment of Grenfell Tower before the fire last year that killed at least 72 people.

The letter from campaigners says it is "ethically unsound" and has "serious risk implications".



Campaigners in north London don't want a firm with links to the Grenfell disaster near their hospital